With the Death This Month of Former Cuban President . . .

At Least 21 People Linked to the Assassination Have Died Mysteriously

When former Cuban president Carlos Prio Socarras sent a fatal bullet crashing into his chest April 5, he became the latest name added to an astonishingly long list of people who died mysteriously — and often violently — after being linked to the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Since that fateful day more than 13 years ago, at least 21 men and women who knew something or somebody connected with JFK's murder have died under strange circumstances. In almost every case they died either by murder or suicide.

The macabre list of deaths grew bigger when Prio committed suicide. His death has brought renewed interest into an FBI document that had been shelved with thousands of other assassination-related files in the National Archives.

Ten days after the assassination, FBI agent Daniel Doyle wrote a report quoting a reliable FBI informant that Prio was actually a one-time business associate of Jack Ruby, the nightclub owner who killed assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

The report said that Ruby once purchased a share in a Havana casino in which Prio was the principal owner. In the mid-1950s both Ruby, known as Jack Rubenstein, and Prio were active in arranging flights of weapons to the Castro guerrillas in Cuba while Prio was financing the supply of arms to pro-Castro forces.

Assassination investigator Alan Weberman told The ENQUIRER: "Prio supported Castro who promised to make him president again. But Castro double-crossed him and Prio . . . was very active in arranging the Bay of Pigs plot to take Cuba back by force."

LATEST DEATH linked to the JFK murder is former Cuban president Carlos Prio Socarras.

Prio died violently, like so many others directly or indirectly connected with JFK's murder. The mysterious deaths of persons involved with the Kennedy assassination were:

LEE HARVEY OSWALD
Murdered Nov. 24, 1963
Millions of television viewers looked on in horror as the suspected assassin — who could have provided so many much-needed answers — was gunned down by Jack Ruby in the basement of the Dallas police station Sunday, two days after JFK was killed.

JACK ZANGETTI
Found murdered December 1963
The day before Oswald was shot, Zangetti, manager of a motel complex in Oklahoma told some friends, "Three men — not Oswald — killed President Kennedy. A man named Jack Ruby will kill Oswald tomorrow and in a few days a member of the Frank Sinatra family will be kidnapped to take some of the attention away from the assassination." This conversation was confirmed by assassination researcher Penn Jones Jr.

Zangetti was dead right. On December 8, about two weeks after Ruby shot Oswald, Frank Sinatra Jr. was kidnapped, and later released unharmed.

Two weeks after the prophetic conversation, Zangetti was found dead in Lake Lugert, Oklahoma, with bullet holes in his chest.

BETTY MOONEY MacDONALD
Committed suicide February 1964
A former stripper in Jack Ruby's Carousel Club, Betty had been to a party attended by Oswald. Betty had provided an alibi for a man accused of shooting and wounding Warren Reynolds, a witness to the Kennedy assassination. A week after talking to the police, she was arrested for fighting with her roommate. An hour later she was dead — she was found hanging in her cell.

HANK KILLAM
Found dead March 17, 1964
Killam, husband of Wanda Killam who was also a stripper for Ruby, was associated not only with Ruby but with John Carter who lived in the same rooming house as Oswald. After the assassination, Killam moved from state to state to avoid questioning by federal agents. Four months after JFK's murder, Killam was found dead on a Pensacola, Fla., street — his throat was slashed.

BILL HUNTER
Killed April 1964
Hunter, 35, an award-winning newsman with the Long Beach Press-Telegram in Long Beach, Calif., had met with Ruby's attorney Tom Howard at Ruby's apartment only hours after Ruby shot Oswald. Five months later Hunter was shot to death by a policeman in the Long Beach police station. The policeman said he dropped his gun and it accidentally fired when he picked it up. The bullet went through Hunter's heart.

GARY UNDERHILL
Found dead May 8, 1964
Underhill, a former military affairs editor of Life magazine, and a CIA agent, "begged his friends to keep him out of sight" after the assassination, claimed Penn Jones Jr. "Almost out of his mind, he told his friends that he knew who killed President Kennedy and he was sure 'they' would soon get him."

According to Jones, Underhill said the CIA had killed Kennedy because it was unhappy about JFK's snooping into its affairs. On May 8, 1964, in Washington, D.C., Underhill died of gunshot wounds to the head. Authorities ruled it suicide — even though he was right-handed and he was shot through the left side of the head.

JIM KOETHE
Murdered Sept. 21, 1964
A Dallas Times Herald reporter, Koethe, 30, had also met with Ruby's attorney the same time as Hunter did. Ten months later Koethe was killed by a karate chop to the throat as he emerged from a shower in his apartment. His killer was never found.

TOM HOWARD
Died March 1965
Howard, Ruby's attorney, died of a heart attack in Dallas. "He was seen acting strangely two days before his death and no autopsy was performed," said Penn Jones Jr.

ROSE CHERAMI
Killed Sept. 4, 1965
Two days before the JFK murder, Rose, a stripper for Ruby, had told hospital psychiatrist Dr. Victor Weiss that the President was going to be killed. The doctor put it down to the ravings of a heroin addict — until the assassination. Cherami then told police she had seen Oswald in Ruby's club many times. Nearly two years later, a hit-and-run car struck Rose, crushing her skull, near Big Sandy Texas.

DOROTHY KILGALLEN
Found dead Nov. 8, 1965
During Jack Ruby's trial for murdering Oswald, columnist Dorothy Kilgallen had a 30-minute private interview with Ruby in the judge's chambers. She never published what was said.

CLAY SHAW: Acquitted of conspiring to kill JFK, he died in 1974 — but exact cause of his death was never established.

JACK RUBY: After his death from cancer, attorneys charged Dallas authorities with negligence.

Dorothy told her makeup man she was going to "break the Kennedy assassination wide open within five days." Three days later Dorothy was found dead in her New York apartment. Medical experts never determined the exact circumstances surrounding her death — there were no signs of violence or suicide — but they did discover a combination of alcohol and barbiturates.

WILLIAM PITZER
Found dead Oct. 29, 1966
For three years U.S. Navy Lt. William Pitzer kept the secret of the autopsy of President Kennedy. Pitzer had photographed the autopsy at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Md., outside Washington, D.C., and was instructed never to reveal what he saw. In the fall of 1966 he retired from the Navy after 28 years and took a $45,000 a year job with a network TV station. Less than a month later, Pitzer was found dead with a bullet in his head. A gun was found in his right hand.

JACK RUBY
Died Jan. 3, 1967
Cancer claimed the life of this major figure in the JFK assassination investigation. The next day his attorneys charged negligence by Dallas authorities who had custody of their client. They said officials ignored Ruby's vomiting and complaints that he was ill.

DAVID FERRIE
Died Feb. 21, 1967
Ferrie was a CIA contract pilot who had flown into Cuba on secret missions. In early 1967 New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison — convinced Ferrie was part of the conspiracy that killed JFK — questioned the CIA pilot on the theory that Ferrie had flown the real murderers out of Dallas immediately after the assassination.

A month after he was questioned and released, Ferrie was found dead in his apartment with an unsigned suicide note. Coroner Dr. Nicholas Chetta ruled suicide claiming that a ruptured blood vessel had caused a massive brain hemorrhage. But the coroner never explained how Ferrie could have induced such a hemorrhage.

ELADIO DEL VALLE
Murdered Feb. 21, 1967
On the same day as Ferrie's death, his close friend Eladio Del Valle, a wealthy exiled Cuban, was murdered. Del Valle, who had flown with Ferrie on many secret missions to Cuba, was found in a Miami parking lot — with a bullet wound in his heart.

DR. MARY SHERMAN
Murdered June 1967
Another of Ferrie's friends, Dr. Mary Sherman was shot to death in New Orleans. Her killer then burned her body.

DR. NICHOLAS CHETTA
Died May 1968
In a macabre twist of fate, the coroner himself, who performed autopsies on both Ferrie and Dr. Sherman, died of a heart attack.

CLYDE JOHNSON
Murdered July 1969
Johnson, 37 — who had attended parties with Ferrie, Ruby and Oswald — was slated to testify at the New Orleans conspiracy trial that Garrison was conducting. Johnson never appeared. He was beaten up so severely he had to be hospitalized. Then five months later he was shot to death near Greensburg, La.

JOSEPH A. MILTEER
Died Feb. 22, 1974
Milteer, a right-wing extremist, was secretly taped by Miami police as he detailed with terrifying accuracy how JFK would be killed — 13 days before the assassination. After Kennedy's death, the FBI briefly questioned, then released Milteer. On Feb. 9, 1974, a Coleman stove blew up in his bathroom. Two weeks later Milteer died of burns he suffered in the fire, according to the death certificate, but no autopsy was performed — and the burns were not severe enough to have caused death, according to a mortician who saw the body.

CLAY SHAW
Died Aug. 15, 1974
Shaw, a wealthy businessman, was tried by Garrison and acquitted of conspiring to kill Kennedy. In January 1974, former CIA executive Victor Marchetti revealed that a CIA executive instructed an agent to give "Shaw all the help he needs" during the Garrison investigation. Several months after this revelation Shaw was found dead in his home. The exact cause of death was never established because his body was embalmed too quickly.

GEORGE de MOHRENSCHILDT
Committed suicide March 29, 1977
De Mohrenschildt, 65, shot himself to death in Manalapan, Fla., only hours after learning that an investigator for the House assassinations committee wanted to interview him. De Mohrenschildt once testified before the Warren Commission that he had been a close friend of Oswald.

CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS
Committed suicide April 5, 1977
Exactly a week after de Mohrenschildt took his life, Carlos Prio also committed suicide, becoming the latest name in the assassination death list — a list that may never stop growing.

Huge Enquirer Team Worked on Special

This week's ENQUIRER special on the Kennedy Assassination involved 40 editors, reporters, photographers and researchers working as a coordinated team. These are the people responsible:

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